THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (d) State Government of Tamil Nadu has forwarded project proposals under TCIDS for Karur, Kanchipuram and Dindigul centres. The State Government has been advised to formulate the project proposals in line with the revised guidelines announced in November, 2002 and a checklist has also been sent to them for their guidance in making the project report professional and detailed.

Concession to Indian textile sector to compete with Chinese textile sector

†912. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give further concessions to Indian textile sector in order to compete with Chinese textile sector;

(b) whether Government contemplate to set up a reconstruction fund for rejuvenation of sick industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Taking note of the new challenges and opportunities presented by the changing global environment including an integration of the world textile and clothing markets by end 2004, the Government of India have announced a National Textile Policy in November, 2000 to develop a strong and vibrant textile industry capable of producing cloth of good quality at acceptable prices as well as of competing with confidence with other textile producing countries including China for an increasing share of global market. Some of the major initiatives undertaken for implementation of the Policy are:-

(i) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI.

(ii) Announcement in two consecutive Budgets aiming *inter alia* at further rationalisation of duty structure in the textile sector and reducing costs of machinery critical to technology upgradation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Launching of schemes of Apparel Parks for Exports and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;

(iv) Concerted action for implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and Technology Mission on Cotton schemes;

(v) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;

(vi) Launching of a programme as part of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for modernisation of weaving capacities.

(b) to (d) A proposal for financial restructuring of viable and potentially viable mills and the setting up of a Textile Asset Restructuring Fund has been received. No decision has been taken.

Ending quota regime under WTO in 2004

913. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota regime that ends under WTO in the year 2004 will open up 100 billion USD for trade of world textiles to the Indian textile industry;

(b) if so, what preparation Ministry of Textiles has made to take advantage of this opportunity;

(c) whether Indian textile industry is restructuring itself by evolving manufacturing and marketing strategies to use these opportunities to increase their business; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) It is true that the quota regime ending on 31.12.2004 would bring more export opportunities for Indian textile industry.

(b) In order to enable the industry to take further advantage of such opportunities, the Government has also taken the following steps to make the industry more competitive: